

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 14 are pending in the application. Claim 6 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 8 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Claims 9 - 14 have been added. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). The Examiner states that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Drawings 3A, 3B, and 3C have now been added to show a cylindrical bore having a chamfer, a cylindrical depression, and a recess, respectively. No new matter has been added to the drawings.

The specification has been amended to incorporate Reference No. 16 for the bubble as shown in Figure 2. The specification has also been amended to correct a typographical error. Further, the specification notes the additional Figures 3A - C and provides reference numbers 20, 30 and 40 to the chamfer, cylindrical depression, and the recess, respectively.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner states that it is not understood how the output shaft is "staked" to the crank. The explanation of how the output shaft is staked to the crank is disclosed in the Summary in paragraph [0010]. This explanation should overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that "the cylindrical bore" and "the area" in claims 4 and 5, respectively, lack antecedent basis. Claims 4 and 5 have now been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph.

Claims 1 - 5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blanchet et al. in view of Mansel. The Examiner states that it

would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Blanchet et al. in view of the teachings of Mansel to provide a crank press fitted on an output shaft of a wiper gear mechanism. Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 8 have now been rewritten in Jepson format to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. As amended, claim 1 requires an improvement to a wiping device for wiping window glass on vehicles having an output shaft and a crank rotationally, immoveably, positioned on the output shaft on a side of the gear housing facing away from the gear mechanism. The improvement includes the output shaft-to-crank connection which is a press fitting and that one of the gear housing and the gear housing cover has an opening on a side facing away from the crank where an end of the output shaft facing away from the crank can be supported through the opening to press fit the output shaft to the crank. Blanchet et al. does not show or disclose a wiping device for wiping window glass on vehicles where the gear mechanism is enclosed in a gear housing and the output shaft and the crank is rotationally immovably positioned on the upper shaft on the side of the gear housing facing away from the gear mechanism. In Blanchet et al., the crank and connecting rod system 9 is located in the gear housing and is therefore not positioned on the side of the gear housing facing away from the gear mechanism. Further, Blanchet et al. does not show or disclose that one of the gear housing and the gear housing cover has an opening on a side facing away from the crank where an end of the output shaft facing away from the crank can be supported through the opening to press fit the output shaft to the crank. In Blanchet et al., the end of the output shaft 10 is coupled to the crank by balance members 20a and 20b within the gear housing. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be distinguished over the prior art of Blanchet et al. The configuration of the crank and output shaft connection in Blanchet would make a press fit connection as disclosed by Mansel impossible. Therefore, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Blanchet et al. in view of the teachings of Mansel to provide a crank press-fit on an output shaft of a wiper gear mechanism.

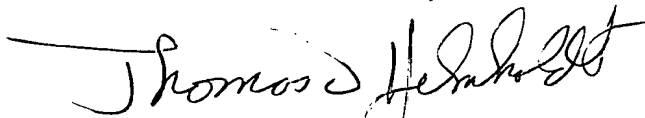
Further, the opening through which the shaft can be supported for press-fitting or staking is important. It enables the installer to test the motor function before fitting the crank onto the outside end of the shaft within a predetermined adjusted position. This predetermined angle is dependent, for example, from the park position of the wiper arm on the windshield.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG, BASILE, HANLON, MacFARLANE,
WOOD & HELMHOLDT, P.C.



Thomas D. Helmholdt
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 33181
(248) 649-3333

3001 West Big Beaver Rd., Suite 624
Troy, Michigan 48084-3107

Dated: December 8, 2003
TDH/DPC/dge